



Greetings from.....

VOLUME TWENTY SIX

AUGUST 1999

PLEA EXECUTIVE

President: Mieke Schipper

Secretary: Sylvia Robertson

Vice President: Bev Watson

Director: Bruce Robertson

Director: Jessie Gordon

Director: Gail Taylor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 15, 1990

7:30pm

15 Millbrook Ridge (The Glenn)

Omeme ON

705-799-5537

President's Message

by Mieke Schipper

What a summer it (still) is..... The Ex may be open, but we are not done yet. We hope you and your family are still enjoying the warm days.

Your PLEA executive is gearing up for another year of vigilance and activities.

AGM

First and foremost, we are preparing for the AGM. After five years of having the AGM on a Saturday during the summer months to accommodate our cottage members, this year we are bowing to our residential members, who have let us know that an evening of a weekday is more suitable to their schedule. September 15 at the home of Sylvia and Bruce Robertson. Further in the Newsletter you will find details and an agenda for the evening.

Tri-Lakes Report

Much has happened in the last few months that directly effects us all as lakeshore dwellers. The Friends of the Trent Severn Waterway have completed a report on the shorelines of the Tri-Lakes, Pigeon, Buckhorn and Chemong. We will publish relevant portions of the report in the coming months.

Land Trusts

A group of about 25 Kawartha Lakes residents met in late June to discuss a concept that is rather new in our area, Land Trusts. While land trusts are not just of significance to lakeshore owners, we have asked Ian Attridge, a Peterborough lawyer involved with the Ontario Land Trust Foundation to help us find out more about it. Ian was a speaker at the Kawartha Lakes Environment Day this Spring and some of our members expressed great interest in the idea. Keep looking for more information in a later newsletter.

Take a little lead out

In August, PLEA member Bob Sargigent wrote a letter to the editor of a regional paper expressing concern about the demise of loons on our lake. He pleaded for boaters to be more careful and try to avoid these beautiful birds. It are not just boaters, the lead we use for sinkers is certainly a problem. Further in the newsletter is an article, taken from the brochure about a PLEA staple "Take a little lead out". Please read it carefully and take it to heart. This action is spearheaded by PLEA member Elaine Petreman,

In coming issues, we will address the topic of Water, Live release Tournaments, and improved pickerel spawning grounds and continue with ideas about improving lakeshore and lakeshore habitat..

TAKE A LITTLE LEAD OUT

Take a little lead out is a sinker and jig **EXCHANGE** program. It was initiated by the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan in 1995. It's objective is to help sustain loon and waterbird populations for the future, by exchanging your lead sinkers and jigs for non-toxic alternatives.

What is the problem?

Lead sinkers and jigs are deposited into our lakes and rivers, poisoning Ontario's loons and other waterbirds. They get their food by digging in the mud at the bottom of lakes. If they find a sinker there, they may eat it by accident, thinking it is a pebble (small stones that birds eat to help them grind up their food).

Since loons do not have teeth, they swallow pebbles and store them in their gizzards to help grind their food. The breakdown of the lead in the gizzard results in lead movement into the blood stream where it is carried into the kidneys, brain and other organs causing damage.

Breakdown of the digestive system can result in loss of weight, inability to fly, trouble feeding, mating and caring for the young and a higher risk of predation.

Sinker and jig **EXCHANGE PROGRAMS** have been initiated to help make people aware that there are alternatives to lead fishing tackle, such as bismuth and tin. PLEA has such an exchange program and this will give the anglers under us the chance to exchange their old lead sinkers and jigs for non-toxic ones....**ABSOLUTELY FREE.**

Call Elaine Petreman, 705-292-8590.

Environmentally friendly sinkers and jigs are made from material like tin, bismuth or special putty that are non poisonous to birds and are still as effective to anglers.

Lead Sinker and Jig Facts:

- Lead has been declared a toxic substance under the Canadian Environmental protection Act.
- An estimated 500 tons of lead enter Canadian waterways each year as a result of lost sinkers and jigs.
- Most of the deposition of lead sinkers occur in Ontario and Quebec waters.
- 30% of adult loon deaths in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes are the result of lead poisoning.
- Four-fifths of lead poisoning deaths in loons are from indigestion of lead sinkers, while one-fifth is from lead headed jigs.
- Loons can die by eating just one lead sinker or jig.
- Research suggests that Tundra, Mute and Trumpeter Swans, various duck species and Sandhill Cranes are also at risk of lead poisoning.
- Great Britain banned the sale of all small lead fishing weights in 1987 based on wide spread lead poisoning of swans.
- It is estimated that lead fishing sinkers account for less than 1% of the average annual angler budget. Therefore the overall impact of a voluntary conversion to non-toxic

alternatives to both anglers and industry are likely to be significant

Effective fall of 1996, the use and possession of lead fishing sinkers and jigs has been banned in Canada's national Parks and national wildlife areas.

Get involved.

- Use the high quality affordable, non-toxic alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs which are available from PLEA in exchange for your lead tackle.
- Encourage others to use non-toxic tackle.
- Use non-toxic sinkers and jigs when fishing summer or winter.
- Ask local bait and tackle shops to stock non-toxic tackle such as bismuth.
- Spread the word! Tell others about lead poisoning incidents in loons and other water bird species caused by lead sinkers and jigs.
- Treat all wildlife and their habitats with respect. We all want fish and waterbirds to be around for our grandchildren to enjoy.

For more information call Elaine Petreman, 705-292-8509.

Elaine visits various fishing tournaments during the summer and has a booth at the Kawartha Lakes Environment Day.

Membership

Membership for 1999/2000 is due in the month of September. Renewal forms are attached to this Newsletter.

What do you get for your membership dues, you may ask. Your executive works diligently on the following:

Newsletters: 6 per year, with educational articles related to living near the lake.

Library: books, video and audio tapes, and magazines, all related to lakeshore dwelling.

Environment Day: an opportunity for the family to come and browse and learn about various aspects of living near the lake.

Action: vigilance in terms of shoreline development and/or any other actions that may harm the lake and shoreline habitat.

Presentations: township council meetings, cottage and rate payers association meetings, schools and service clubs.

Sometimes we get invited and sometimes we invite ourselves to talk about the importance of the quality of life on the lake.

As you can see from the financial statement, membership dues are a very important part of our income. We urge you not to forget to mail it in. Our membership is computerized and we just began to use an accounting package for our financial recordings. Step by step these processes are getting automated and we hope that this will mean we can serve you better.

Jessie Gordon

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Jessie, who has been director of PLEA for many years. Jessie produced the Newsletter and kept the membership up to date. We thank Jessie for all her time she has dedicated to PLEA.

Nominations for the Board Executive:

President: Mieke Schipper
Vice President: Bev Watson
Secretary: Sylvia Robertson
Treasurer: Bruce Robertson
Directors: Gail Taylor
Betty Evans

Pigeon Lake Environmental Association Inc.

Annual Meeting

September 15, 1999

Agenda:

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Minutes from the AGM August 22, '98
3. Reports:
 - Environment Day Report
 - Education Report
 - Shoreline Development Report
 - Finance Report
 - Membership Report
4. Elections
5. Video Paudash Lake Restoration
6. Guest Speaker
 - Ed Longueville on Marketing
7. Adjournment
8. Refreshments
